

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 200047

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TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

INFO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS

UNCLAS STATE 200047

E.O. 11652, N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CI

SUBJECT: PRESS GUIDANCE RE RELEASE OF LETELIER

FOLLOWING IS EXCERPT FROM STATE DEPARTMENT NOON BRIEFING
SEPTEMBER 11:

Q: DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE MOVEMENTS OF FORMER AMBASSADOR
LETELIER? IS HE COMING TO THE UNITED STATES?

A: WE HAVE NO INDICATION OF ANY PLANS THAT HE HAS TO COME
TO THE UNITED STATES AT THIS TIME.

Q: COULD YOU TELL US HOW AND IN WHAT WAY ANY U.S.
INFLUENCE WAS EXERCISED TO GET HIS RELEASE?

A: ON THAT, I HAVE SOME GUIDANCE THAT'S BEEN GIVEN ME; I
WANT TO BE VERY ACCURATE. WE RECEIVED, OVER THE PAST
SEVERAL MONTHS, MANY EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST ON AMBASSADOR
LETELIER'S BEHALF FROM MEMBERS OF CONGRESS AND PRIVATE
CITIZENS AND INSTITUTIONS HERE IN AMERICA. AND WE COMMUNI-
CATED TO THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT THESE EXPRESSIONS OF
INTEREST ON MR. LETELIER'S BEHALF. BUT I DO WANT TO SAY
THAT THE DECISION TO RELEASE MR. LETELIER WAS, NATURALLY,
SOLELY THE DECISION OF THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT.

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PAGE 02 STATE 200047

Q: DOES YOUR GUIDANCE GIVE YOU ANY TIME SPAN OR THE

NUMBER OF APPEALS?

A: NO. ALL THAT I CAN SAY IS OVER THE PAST SEVERAL MONTHS. BUT AS FOR THE NUMBER OF COMMUNICATIONS, ET CETERA, I DO NOT HAVE THAT.

Q: AND WERE THOSE ONLY REFERRING TO LETELIER OR WERE THEY ALSO REFERRING TO OTHER PEOPLE AS WELL?

A: AS FAR AS I KNOW, IT WAS ON HIS BEHALF. WHETHER INCLUDED IN SOME OF THEM IT INCLUDED OTHER PEOPLE, I AM UNAWARE.

Q: AND WERE THEY FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE PERSONALLY OR WERE THEY THROUGH THE NORMAL CHANNELS?

A: LET ME LOOK INTO THAT.

Q: COULD YOU TAKE A QUESTION ON THE NUMBER OF APPEALS AND THE TIME SPAN AND WHETHER THEY CONCERNED ONLY LETELIER?

A: LET ME LOOK INTO IT. I WILL NOT PROMISE TO GIVE YOU AN ANSWER BECAUSE I DON'T KNOW THE DETAILS ON THE COMMUNICATIONS AND HOW THEY CAME. (END EXCERPT)

FOLLOWING WAS LATER SUPPLIED SPOKESMAN IN ANSWER TO QUESTIONS RAISED AT BRIEFING:

OUR EMBASSY IN SANTIAGO HAS FOR MANY MONTHS KEPT THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT APPRISED OF INQUIRIES AND EXPRESSIONS OF THIS SORT WHICH THE DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED FROM U.S. CONGRESSMEN, INSTITUTIONS AND PRIVATE CITIZENS. THE INQUIRIES USUALLY INVOLVE INDIVIDUALS WHO HAVE RELATIVES WHO ARE AMERICAN CITIZENS. KISSINGER

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